

ABSTRACT

The present invention is a method, apparatus, and system for improving the ability to access, map, search, navigate, and visualize complicated bodies of related information, for example, bodies such as the World Wide Web. A temporal user interface allows users to visualize complex data sets. In one embodiment, this is done by viewing data set representations as raindrops in a pool of water across the time span of a rain storm. Also, the present invention dynamically analyzes and maps information to provide relevant information for a user to view. In one embodiment, the dynamic analysis mapping of information is displayed over time in the temporal user interface. The present invention further provides a mechanism allowing a user to perform directed searches. This allows the user to provide a relevant starting point, subject matter, and a number of other criteria to the search facility that results in search results that are more meaningful. Finally, the present invention provides an interpretive help facility. The interpretive help facility can analyze the users history of actions and provide relevant help based on those actions. The interpretive help facility also allows the user correct mistakes.